

O P R E  
JAN 23 2004  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q76503

Kenji DATE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/617,872

Group Art Unit: 1775

Confirmation No.: 3837

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: July 14, 2003

For: POROUS SINTERED METAL AND FILTER THEREOF, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING POROUS SINTERED METAL

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.:

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants submit the following explanations:

*The submission of the attached English language abstract along with Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2001-271101 constitutes a concise statements of relevance of the respective reference.*

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: JAN 23 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b><u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u></b>		Application Number	10/617,872
		Confirmation Number	3837
		Filing Date	July 14, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kenji DATE
		Art Unit	1775
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	Q76503
Sheet	1	of	1

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

## **NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

**Examiner Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Considered** \_\_\_\_\_

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.